



# Dublin City Council

Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath

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## **Annual Report of the Dublin City Joint Policing Committee on the performance of its functions during 2009**

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In 2006, Dublin City Council established a Joint Policing Committee and 5 Sub Committees corresponding to its 5 operational areas (Area Committees) in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law reform and the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Under paragraph 14.1 of those guidelines the Joint Policing Committee is required, not later than three months after the end of the year, to submit a report to the City Council, on the performance of its function during the preceding year.

Accordingly I wish to report as follows:

### **Report of the Dublin City Joint Policing Committee 2009**

The Dublin City Joint Policing Committee is chaired by Cllr. Gerry Breen (Vice Chairperson is Councillor Larry O'Toole) and held 2 meetings in 2009, on 27<sup>th</sup> April and 30<sup>th</sup> November. The following is a synopsis of the achievements and issues looked at during the year 2009:

The following is the full list of Membership of the Dublin City Joint Policing Committee:

1. Councillors Gerry Breen, John Redmond, Christy Burke, Bríd Smith, Cieran Perry, Larry O'Toole, Eoghan Murphy, Edie Wynne, Tom Brabazon, Mannix Flynn, Michael Conaghan, John Gallagher & Eric Byrne
2. Deputies Aengus O'Snodaigh, Maureen O'Sullivan, Thomas P. Broughan, Catherine Byrne, Cyprian Brady & Seán Ardagh
3. Peter O'Connor (Community Policing Forum) & The Archdeacon of Dublin, the Venerable David Pierpoint & Mr. Tom Coffey, Dublin City Business Association
4. Lord Mayor, Cllr Emer Costello
5. City Manager, Mr John Tierney
6. Mr Philip Maguire and Mr Ciaran Mc Namara, Assistant City Managers, DCC
7. Garda Officials – Assistant Commissioner M. Feehan and Chief Superintendent T. Conway

## **Estate Management**

The following progress was made during 2009 and the following actions agreed:

- Correspondence from Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform “Major Review of Gambling” circulated and discussed. Item to remain on agenda for foreseeable future.
- Local Policing For a & Guidelines came into effect on 14<sup>th</sup> August
- Department of Justice White Paper on Crime: A Workshop to discuss this took place on December 15<sup>th</sup> 2009, following which a submission was forwarded by Mr. Philip Maguire, Deputy City Manager, to the Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform for inclusion on the Paper. Councillors, Area Managers, T.D.’s, Senators, Community Representatives and relevant officials were invited to attend. Copy of Department’s response to be forwarded to Members when received.
- Citywide Community Safety Strategy drawn up by Housing & Residential Services Department was presented to Members at meeting on April 27<sup>th</sup>. This is to be used as a reference document.
- Members requested that legislation be amended to allow HSE become a member. P. Maguire confirmed that, while there is currently no provision for the H.S.E. to become formal members, a delegate from the H.S.E. could attend and he gave a commitment to take up the issue at a formal level and seek a commitment.
- Presentation was given on antisocial behaviour. Information on antisocial statistics supplied.
- Report provided to Members on Current legal position used by Dublin City Council in taking legal proceedings against our tenants for eviction.
- Issue of begging and in particular, Intimidatory Begging, discussed. Powers of Gardaí are very limited in this regard following on from a recent High Court ruling. However Section 247 of the Children Act 2001 allows a member of An Garda Síochána to arrest any person for allowing a child to be on any street or public place for the purpose of begging or receiving alms or inducing the giving of alms.
- Heads of Draft Surveillance Bill was circulated to Members.
- Boardwalk to remain as agenda item.
- Issue of Cyber Bullying was discussed, with a report to be brought to future meeting.

The activities of the 5 **Sub-Committees** during 2009 were as follows:

### **CENTRAL AREA JOINT POLICING SUB-COMMITTEE 2009**

The Central Area Joint Policing Sub-committee was established in late 2006 and meets on a quarterly basis. Councillor Mary Fitzpatrick, who was elected Chairperson on October 5<sup>th</sup>, succeeded Councillor Christy Burke.

Meetings during 2009 took place on the following dates:

- January 12<sup>th</sup>
- April 6<sup>th</sup>
- July 6<sup>th</sup>
- October 5<sup>th</sup>

Below is a summary of the activities of the Central Area Joint Policing Sub-committee during 2009.

- The following issues were discussed at meetings of the sub-committee during 2009: Anti-social behaviour, estate management, traffic management, car vandalism, alcohol abuse, sale of alcohol, consumption of alcohol in public places, community policing, CCTV and begging.
- Members attended a special meeting at which the Policing Plans for 2009 were presented and discussed.
- Crime analysis update reports were presented by Chief Supt. Pat Leahy and Chief Supt. Declan Coburn at each meeting.
- A Divisional Community Policing Office has been established at Store Street where staff liaise with stakeholders such as public representatives to identify on-going issues and to assess the level of stakeholders' satisfaction with the Garda service. This initiative has received very positive feedback from members. Maps of each sector, with details of the Gardaí, Sergeants and Inspectors assigned to each sector were supplied to members.
- Gardaí have extended their operation in the Arbour Hill area as a result of the issue of prostitution there being raised in the forum. The committee wrote to the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform to request that the fine for soliciting be increased. The committee was informed that one of the provisions of the Fines Bill, published subsequently, involved the indexation of all District Court fines imposed. Accordingly, fines for soliciting automatically increased from the date of the coming into operation of the Bill.
- Four permanent items in relation to the sale of alcohol, licensing, public order and anti-social behaviour have been added to the agenda, members raised particular items under these headings.
- A representative of the Anti-Social Policy Unit (Housing) made a report to the sub-committee on legal matters arising from certain procedural matters as implemented by Dublin City Council.
- The committee has written to Dublin Bus, Bus Éireann and the GAA underlining the need for and to request the examination of an effective traffic and transport management plan for the Croke Park area, in particular requesting the investigation of an alternative location to Mountjoy Square for bus parking.
- Submissions were made to the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform on the Major Review of Gambling and also the White Paper on Crime – Crime Prevention and Community Safety.
- Pre-existing local policing fora continued to operate over the course of the year with regular meetings of the North Wall, East Wall, Ballybough, North East Inner City and Mountjoy & District fora being convened locally.
- Meetings of the two fora established since the set up of the JPC – the Drumcondra/Glasnevin and North West Inner City (Smithfield) Fora were also convened.
- The establishment of a forum for the Navan Road area is being progressed. A meeting with the various interested parties was convened in December. Following the creation of this forum, all communities within the Central Area will be serviced by a local policing forum.
- Issues which will be addressed in early 2010 include agreement of the Policing Plans 2010, a new agenda format and selection for membership of the two community/voluntary sector representatives.

## **NORTH CENTRAL AREA JOINT POLICING SUB-COMMITTEE 2009**

The current Chair of the Sub-Committee is Councillor Gerry Breen and the Vice Chair is Councillor Larry O'Toole.

The North Central Area Joint Policing Sub-committee met on the following dates in 2009:

- 19<sup>th</sup> January
- 20<sup>th</sup> April
- 20<sup>th</sup> July
- 19<sup>th</sup> October

The sub committee continued to be a valuable communication process to provide opportunities for planning, reviewing and consultation about relevant matters affecting the policing of the area.

The following is a list of presentations made to sub-committee members during 2009:

<b>Topics</b>	<b>Presented By</b>
Bonfires at Halloween	Dermot Johnson, Public Domain Officer, NCA
City Wide Community Safety Strategy	Jim Kelly, Assistant Area Manager
Dial to Stop Drug Dealing Campaign	Louise Nolan, Dublin North East Drugs Task Force
Divisional and District Policing Plan 2009	Chief Superintendent Gerry Phillips
Estate management issues related to public order, nuisance and anti-social behaviour	John Egan, Area Housing Manager Aidan Fitzsimons, Area Housing Manager
Friends of the Park initiatives	Jim Kelly, Assistant Area Manager Elaine Mulvenny, Assistant Area Manager Eoin Ward, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent
National Drugs Strategy	Tom O'Brien, Dublin North East Drugs Task Force
North Central Probation Services	Judith Leech, Dublin North Central Probation Services
Parking Wardens – report on their role	Garda Siochana
Reports from the Safer Darndale, Safer Clongriffin and Edenmore Safer For a	Jim Kelly, Assistant Area Manager Elaine Mulvenny, Assistant Area Manager
Waste Management Enforcement	John Bruckshaw, Dublin City Council - Waste Management Division

Other items discussed at sub-committee meetings included the Anti-social Behaviour Strategy (Housing Miscellaneous Provision Bill 2008), Report on the Review of Gambling, Plan of work for the NCA sub-committee for 2009/2010 and the White Paper on Crime.

Recurring agenda items were issues relating to the control, regulation and sale of alcohol in pubs/off licences and issues relating to court objections to renewal of licences or late night extension licences due to public disorder or nuisance associated with premises (pubs and off-licences).

It was encouraging to note the successive increase in the number of agenda items (as set out in the following table) on a per annum basis since set up.

### ***Comparative Table***

Number of Agenda items per JPC meetings 2007-2009

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
January	2	4	9
April	2	6	7
July	2	5	11
October	8	7	11
<b>Totals</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>38</b>

### **Highlights and main issues**

#### Safer Edenmore

Safer Edenmore was established and also Friends of the Park for Father Collins Park and Streamville Park.

#### Anti-social behaviour and evictions

The Area Housing Managers, John Egan and Aidan Fitzsimmons highlighted some judicial interpretations that were mitigating against Dublin City Council obtaining court orders for the eviction for some cases of anti-social behaviour.

The effectiveness of the use of evictions and other sanctions against local authority tenants causing anti-social behaviour, merits further review by the City Council.

### **Continued effectiveness of local Fora**

The table below gives details of the Safer Belcamp/Darndale/Moatview, Safer Belmayne/Clongriffin and Safer Edemore fora. These fora have been effective in dealing with many local issues to resolution stage. Membership of the fora is made up of officials from Dublin City Council, An Garda Siochana, local public representatives, local residents, local business representatives and other local stakeholders e.g. HSE, Dublin North East Drugs Task Force, Darndale/Belcamp Village Centre, CDP and Rapid.

<b>Forum</b>	<b>Chairperson</b>	<b>No. of Members</b>	<b>No. of Meetings 2009</b>	<b>Dates of Meetings</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Safer Belcamp/ Darndale/Moatview	Jim Kelly, Assistant Area Manager	20	6	13 Jan 2009 03 Mar 2009 05 May 2009 30 Jun 2009 08 Sept 2009 03 Nov 2009	17 19 16 16 17 17
Safer Clongriffin	Jim Kelly Assistant Area Manager	25	5	20 Jan 2009 24 Mar 2009 19 May 2009 21 Jul 2009 10 Nov 2009	14 20 17 18 14
Safer Edenmore	Elaine Mulvenny Assistant Area Manager	20	3	26 Aug 2009 09 Sept 2009 11 Nov 2009	20 15 15

### **Close co-operation between Area Office and Garda for Fr. Collins Park**

After some initial anti-social behaviour and public order offences following the opening of Father Collins Park, close co-operation and remedial actions following Garda advice, prevented the re-occurrence of similar unsatisfactory behaviour.

### **Internal Review of North Central Area Joint Policing Sub-Committee**

Following a review by Councillors, DCC management and senior Garda, the following were recommended.

- a. Need an improved co-ordinating role on Joint Policing Committee items and actions.
- b. Clarify if the North Central Joint Policing Sub Committee can make policy and strategic recommendations to various bodies following consultation with the Corporate Joint Policing Committee.
- c. Review the potential for increased community input and participation
- d. Consider producing a newsletter including contact names of community Gardaí - preference is to consider an electronic copy on the web
- e. Provide a summary report from the Darndale Safer Forum, Clongriffin/Belmayne Safer Forum and Edenmore Forum at every second Joint Policing sub committee meeting
- f. Investigate a role and the participation of the Health Service Executive particularly in relation to youth services and family support.
- g. Request inputs from the Probation Services, local schools and youth service providers e.g. Sphere 17.

Actions have been taken to implement the recommendations.

### **NORTH WEST AREA JOINT POLICING SUB-COMMITTEE 2009**

The current Chair of the Sub-Committee is Councillor Paul McAuliffe and the Vice Chair is Councillor John Redmond.

Meetings of the North West Joint Policing Committee took place on the following dates during 2009:-

- 16<sup>th</sup> February
- 20<sup>th</sup> April
- 20<sup>th</sup> July
- 19<sup>th</sup> October

In accordance with codes of practice for their operation, the North West Joint Policing Sub-Committee drew up an annual work programme at the start of 2009.

**The Work Plan** encompassed the following broad headings:-

- Quality of life issues
- Tackling substance misuse
- Community Engagement
- Service delivery to marginalised and minority communications

**Presentations** were made during the year on a wide range of topics linked to the work plan such as:

- Promoting public order
- Local initiatives under the Juvenile Liaison Scheme

- Pilot restorative justice initiative in Ballymun
- Dublin City Council Estate Management Procedures
- Sale and supply of alcohol to minors and specifically home deliveries of alcohol
- Use of adult and juvenile anti-social behaviour orders
- The work of An Garda Síochána Drugs Unit.

### **Local Policing Fora**

In accordance with the Local Policing Guidelines, Safer Ballymun and the Finglas Safety Forum have been recognised by the North West Joint Policing sub-Committee as local fora for the North West Area. The Joint Policing sub-Committee discussed a range of matters around local policing, and worked with both Safer Ballymun and the Finglas Safety Forum to support their work as local policing fora. Safer Ballymun continues to implement its community safety strategy and the Finglas Safety Forum is now well attended and is beginning to identify initiatives whereby residents, An Garda Síochána and Dublin City Council can work together to enhance local safety and improve quality of life for local residents.

From Monday 19<sup>th</sup> – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October Ballymun hosted the first ever **Safer Ballymun Week** to celebrate the growing partnership between An Garda Síochána, Dublin City Council, Ballymun Regeneration Ltd and the Ballymun residents to make Ballymun a better place to live, work and visit. Focusing on many aspects of community safety, the week-long programme featured an exciting list of events including an open day at the Ballymun Garda Station, an anti enviro-crime awareness blitz with street puppets on Ballymun Main Street, and crime prevention coffee mornings at the Coultry and Sillogue neighbourhood centres.

A key focus of the week was the presentation by the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Councillor Emer Costello, of the Safer Ballymun Awards. The competition involved three award categories: Best Contribution to a Safer Ballymun; Safer Ballymun Schools Poster Competition; Garda Midnight Soccer League Award.

The *Best Contribution to a Safer Ballymun* award was set up to recognise the important contribution residents groups are making to help their neighbourhoods become safer and more pleasant for themselves and their children. Sillogue Green Friends of the Park were presented with the award for their work on making their local green a safer cleaner place for everyone in the community.

The Finglas Safety Forum expressed a lot of concern during 2009 on a spate of burglaries in the area particularly on older residents. The Finglas Safety Forum has decided to make this issues one of its key priorities during 2010 with plans to re-invigorate Neighbourhood Watch. An initiative whereby local residents associations are supporting the efforts of the Gardaí and volunteered to deliver safety information leaflets in their local areas to remind people of precautions etc has been well received. Also each resident's association has the name and contact details for their community garda to assist in crime prevention in their estates.

In keeping with Local Policing Guidelines in Drugs Task Force Areas, Safer Ballymun and the Finglas Safety Forum continue to work towards developing stronger links with Ballymun Drugs Task Force and Finglas Cabra Drugs Task Force respectively. Safer Ballymun has established a steering committee with representatives from Dublin City Council, Gardaí, community representatives, the co-ordinator of the Local

Drugs Task Force and a councillor. Safer Ballymun's Community Safety Strategy contains a number of objectives linking into the Ballymun Drugs Task Force including the recently established working group to develop an alcohol strategy for the area. Representatives of Dublin City Council also sit on the boards of the two Drugs Task Forces and on a number of sub-committees of the Task Forces. The Co-ordinator of the Finglas Cabra Drugs Task Force attends meeting of Safer Finglas on a regular basis. Currently the Dublin City Council representative on the board of the Finglas Cabra Drugs Task Forces acts as a conduit of information between the Task Force and the JPC. It is hoped to widen the representation on the steering group for the Finglas Safety Forum during 2010 as currently it acts mainly as an interagency group.

### **Events**

Issues relating to public safety and enjoyment of events also featured strongly at Joint Policing Committee meetings, particularly St Patrick's Day and Halloween. An Garda Síochána and Dublin City Council worked together to ensure that both events were free of anti-social activities. With regard to Halloween, significant co-operation between the Gardaí and Area staff ensured that the Halloween events in Ballymun and Finglas were a great success with the Gardaí reporting it as the quietest Halloween in the area in memory. Linkages established with residents through the local policing fora and specifically the availability of a hotline resulted in a number of tip offs with large amount of materials confiscated. Over 1, 200 warning letters were issued to residents in relation to the storing & transporting of bonfire materials/waste in their gardens in the run up to Halloween. Early morning raids on properties took place with the support of the Gardaí at locations where large amounts of bonfire materials were stored. In cases where these were Dublin City Council tenants they were subsequently interviewed and advised of the breach of their Tenancy Agreement. 210 tonnes of materials were removed by parks on the Northside of the city from 24<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October. It is estimated that over 65% of this was from the North West Area.

The other big event in Finglas during 2009 was the opening of the new Garda Station on Mellowes Road. Both Ballymun and Finglas have both benefited from having new stations provided in their respective areas in the last two years.

### **Parks**

The safe use of public parks also remained high on the agenda with special area committee meetings taking place at which local Gardaí, area staff and residents sought ways to improve public enjoyment of parks and to protect homes adjacent to parks from anti social incidents.

A number of Friends of the Parks Initiatives are working reasonably successfully in Ballymun. It is planned, in 2010 to examine our regional parks and to agree a range of initiatives to address safety concerns of local residents and to encourage more people to use their parks.

### **White Paper on Crime Workshop**

Also relevant to the work of the North West Area JPC during the year, was the intention indicated by government to circulate widely a series of white papers on crime. The 1<sup>st</sup> such paper on Crime Prevention on Safety was circulated with the City Council organising a workshop to respond and make a submission on the White Paper. The workshop took place on 15<sup>th</sup> December. Community, voluntary and public representatives along with area staff attended the workshop and gave their

views. Views were expressed by those attending on a wide range of key concerns, such as the upsurge in burglaries, alcohol abuse, enforcement of by-laws and legislation, drug abuse, multiple offenders, leniency of sentencing, the role of the judiciary and intimidation of witnesses to crime. Communities indicated a desire to develop the potential for e-watch as an addition to the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. 'Head shops' were also discussed with concern. Following on from the Workshop on Crime, the North West Area has established a sub-committee to report on the impact of existing legislation with an aim to lobby for changes in existing legislation to deal with some of the issues outlined above.

The Work Plan for 2010 is currently being prepared and will include a list of objectives with specific actions attached to each objective. It is also intended to hold a public meeting in the area during 2010.

### **SOUTH CENTRAL AREA JOINT POLICING SUB-COMMITTEE 2009**

The current Chair of the Sub-Committee is Councillor Ruairí McGinley and the Vice Chair is Councillor Henry Upton.

The South Central Area Joint Policing Committee has met four times during 2009:

- 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2009
- 17<sup>th</sup> April 2009
- 29<sup>th</sup> July 2009
- 9<sup>th</sup> October 2009

As a result of the meetings a number of initiatives have been suggested which I now set out below: -

- There was a presentation by Mr Chris Browne of South Inner City Local Drugs Task Force (S.I.C.L.D.T.F) on the activities of this group within the community and the plans for the future.
- The Committee expressed concern at the levels of anti social behaviour and criminality affecting public transport in the South Central Area and representatives of both Veoila (Luas) and Dublin Bus were invited to attend the April 09 meeting.
- A new Community Representative joined the Committee and is actively participating in the Committee.
- The Committee is maintaining an interest in ongoing developments in Dolphin House.
- The Community Safety Strategy document was examined and individual headings contained are being selected as Agenda items for discussion at future meetings.
- The Committee wrote to P.R.T.B. (Private Residency Tenancy Board) to invite a representative to attend a future meeting to discuss the issue of Anti Social behaviour in privately rented residences.
- Area Housing managers present to the Committee on public order matters in South Central Area at each meeting.
- Work continues on setting up the local community policing fora in the areas. The south West Inner city forum held 3 public meetings.
- The Ballyfermot Local Policing Forum also held 3 public meetings.

- The Dublin 12 Community Safety Partnership is transferring to a local policing forum.
- Work has commenced on setting up a local forum in Rialto.
- There was continued co-operation between An Garda Síochána and Dublin City Council in the lead up to Halloween.

### **SOUTH EAST AREA JOINT POLICING SUB-COMMITTEE 2009**

The current Chair of the Sub-Committee is Councillor Edie Wynne.

The South East Area Joint Policing Sub -Committee met on the following dates in 2009:

- 26<sup>th</sup> January
- 20<sup>th</sup> April
- 1<sup>st</sup> December

A wide range of topics were discussed at the meetings in 2009 including:

- Policing Plan 2009
- City Wide Community Safety Group
- Local Policing Fora
- Graffiti
- Public Order/Anti Social Behaviour Issues
- Ringsend Park Working Group

The following presentations were made during the year:

- **Policing Plan:** Following Chief Superintendent John Twomey's presentation it was agreed that a Task Force for Ethnic and Cultural Diversity in the South East Inner City would be put on the agenda of future meetings.
- **The Martyn Group Alcohol Initiative** - A presentation was made by Enda Martyn from Centra Group in relation to the responsible sale of alcohol and the introduction of a staff training initiative in conjunction with Pearse Street Garda Station. This presentation has been referred to the City Wide JPC to be debated further.
- **Abandoned Vehicles:** Members were updated by Martin Farrell Dublin City Council on the policies, procedures and legislation governing the removal of abandoned vehicles.

Superintendent Lorraine Wheatley updated the Sub-Committee on a graffiti project which is run by Tallaght Community Policing Unit and which has been extended into the Rathmines/Terenure area. The project involves building up a database of tags and their location to pinpoint which offenders are active at a given time. Further legislation is required to target stores that are selling the paint materials.

Concerns were raised regarding a number of issues in the Alma Court/Swan Grove area. A number of meetings were held during the year with Gardaí, South East Area staff, elected representatives and residents in an effort to address these issues. The local Community Gardaí have increased their presence in the area, Dublin City Council have investigated and interviewed tenants where appropriate, parking issues were addressed by the Gardaí and Dublin City Council and other issues such as adequate lighting and graffiti have also been addressed. The issues surrounding the use of the green space is currently being examined.

### **Ringsend Park Working Group and Joint Policing Sub-Committee**

The South East Area Joint Policing Subcommittee – Parks Working Group is made up of Dublin City Council Officials, Gardaí representatives from Irishtown Garda Station, Community Representatives and local residents. The aim of the Group is to encourage the community to take 'ownership' of Ringsend Park and to promote its facilities thereby reducing the incidence of anti-social behaviour in the park and surrounding area. Nine meetings were held in 2009 to discuss the management of the park and issues affecting the immediate environs.

A number of issues raised by local residents have been successfully addressed during 2009 such as tree pruning to the rear of homes backing onto Ringsend Park, collection of leaves to clear pathways through the park and the removal of graffiti from the park's boundary walls.

Building on the successful impact that lighting from the playing pitches has had on reducing anti-social behaviour in the park, the Group is considering the introduction of additional lighting along the pathway in the park. In a report from Public Lighting it has been suggested that a further 32 lighting poles would be required to light the pathway. It has been proposed that on a phased basis Ringsend Park would become an 'open park' which would be frequently used by residents even during hours of darkness thus self-policing the area and making it safer for all users.

The Group supported International Women's Day 2009. The day was celebrated in Ringsend with events held in Irishtown Stadium, Ringsend Community Centre & the Spellman Centre. Events included the staging of the play Ruby Tuesday, holistic healing treatments, health assessments and fitness activities.

The Group supported the annual Drugs Awareness Week 2009. The Ringsend & District Response to Drugs organised a week-long series of events to raise awareness about the causes and consequences of drug addiction. The events included educational meetings, an art competition and exhibition and a football tournament.

A Ringsend Halloween Festival was organised from 28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2009. The aim of the Festival was to provide an alternative to bonfires and other anti-social behavior that is a cause of concern to the wider community at this time of year. From the official launch on the 28<sup>th</sup> right up to the parade on the Saturday evening the community were invited to participate in free, organised events including a fancy dress, sports activities, disco for younger age groups, mask making craft activities, storytelling, a pirate adventure on the Liffey and a parade. The response to the events was very encouraging and people of all ages supported the programme.

The Group is currently reviewing a proposal from Community Representatives to create a Community Garden within the park's confines. The proposal includes the provision of a number of allotments for use by local residents who would not otherwise have the opportunity to grow their own vegetables or flowers. Members of the Group made site visits to 2 of South Dublin County Council's parks (Tymon Park and Sean Walsh Park, Tallaght) to research best practices in setting up such a garden.

Building on its successes in 2009, the Parks Working Group intends to continue its review of the proposals for a Community Garden and the introduction of additional lighting in Ringsend Park, assist in organising celebrations for International Women's Day 2010, arrange a Halloween Festival 2010 and to continue to facilitate community involvement in the management of Ringsend Park to further reduce anti-social behaviour and to improve enjoyment of the park's amenities.

### **White Paper on Crime Workshop**

To maximise community input to a response the White Paper on Crime a number of members of the South East Area JPC, Community, Voluntary and Public Representatives attended a workshop in December to respond to and make submissions on the White Paper. A formal submission was sent to the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform.

### **Community Safety Strategy and Local Policing Fora**

The Community Safety Strategy was referred to the Area Committee and was discussed in conjunction with the Local Policing Fora Guidelines. In accordance with the Local Policing Guidelines initial discussions have taken place between the co-ordinator of the South West Inner City Drugs Task Force, the Gardaí and Dublin City Council to discuss the establishment of Local Policing Fora in the Drugs Task Force area. While this Drugs Task Force operates in parts of the South Central and South East Areas 1 Councillor and 1 official from the South East Area represent Dublin City Council on the board.

The above is a summary of the main items dealt with by the 5 Area Joint Policing Committees and the Dublin City Joint Policing Committee during 2009.

**Councillor Gerry Breen**

**Chairperson**

**Dublin City Joint Policing Committee**